



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at

HMP Wealstun

for reporting Year
1 June 2016 – 31 May 2017

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Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

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1 STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- (1) satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- (2) inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority, as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- (3) **report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.**

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Wealstun for the period 1 June 2016 – 31 May 2017. IMB evidence comes from observations made on visits, scrutiny of records and data, informal contact with prisoners and staff, surveys and prisoner applications.

The Board considers that the prison is well managed and that management are doing a good job under testing circumstances. They have been proactive in trying to stem the flow of psychoactive substances (PS) entering the prison and managing its effects, for example the resulting increase in violence. (Page 7, paras 4.2, 4.4 – 4.5 and 4.8 refer)

The prison continues to foster good community relations, as evidenced by: the introduction of the Pop Up Shop selling baked items and surplus vegetables to the general public; the initiative with the Children's Hospice; and an initiative to use an area of the prison for public meetings to include high quality catering is planned.

Main Judgements

The Board considers that prisoners are treated fairly. (Page 9, section 5 refers)

The majority of the prison staff ensure that prisoners are treated humanely and decently.

However, the condition of the accommodation in some parts of the prison is unacceptable, particularly in A and B wings. A recent CPFIG inspection highlighted problems with the fire precautions in A and B wings; the prison has therefore had to prevent prisoners who are potentially arsonists from being housed there. (Page 12, paras 7.1 – 7.3 refer) Furthermore, day to day maintenance of the buildings is unsatisfactory. (Page 12, paras 7.3 – 7.6 refer) Additionally, the lack of management and staff in the SEG and the new self-isolators' wing has resulted in prisoners not being treated humanely and decently. (Page 7, para 4.6 refers) However, improvements have been evidenced late in the reporting period following an increase in management in the SEG. (Page 11, para 6.7 refers)

Preparation for release is good in part, with prisoners being contacted by St Giles Trust (which provides resettlement services). However, a lack of staff in the Offender Management Unit (OMU) has resulted in prisoners being released with no contact from their offender supervisor. (Page 16, paras 11.1 – 11.2 refer). However, the introduction of the Band 4 review planned for later this year should improve the situation. Also, there are insufficient vocational workshops to provide qualifications that might assist in finding work on release. A full curriculum review has taken place which addresses the need for additional vocational workshops. (Page 15, paras 10.2 and 10.5 refer)

Areas for Development

TO THE MINISTER

Whilst HMP Wealstun is currently recruiting new officers, the report highlights a considerable number of problems which are caused, or compounded, by inadequate staffing levels, and the Board does not feel that the staffing increase proposed by the Government is sufficient to address the serious problems that HMP Wealstun is currently experiencing. It is obvious to the Board that funding for HM Prison Service has reduced to a critical level where the safety of prisoners and staff is at risk. What representations are being made to the Government to ensure these issues are understood and to secure additional funding? (Paras 4.4 – 4.5, 4.7, 5.6, 6.2 – 6.3, 6.5 – 6.6, 9.1, 9.7 – 9.8, 9.10 and 11.2 refer)

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

Funding should be made available to enable the prison buildings to be brought up to the standards required for a Category C prison, in particular, significant improvements to A and B wings. (Paras 7.1 - 7.2 refer)

The national contract with Amey should be reviewed to ensure that the work undertaken is fit for purpose and that costs for work present value for money. (Paras 6.5 and 7.3 – 7.5 refer)

TO THE GOVERNOR

The management of the SEG and of self-isolators on A wing should continue to be closely monitored, and improvements progressed quickly. (Paras 4.7 and 6.7 refer)

The regime should be continually reviewed within the staffing resources available so that all prisoners have a meaningful regime and access to the gym, education, visits, healthcare etc. as required. (Para 9.1 refers)

TO THE PROVIDER (of Healthcare/Education/Maintenance etc.)

Amey should improve the standard of their work throughout the prison, improve time scales for undertaking the work and ensure that subcontractors deliver work to an acceptable standard. (Paras 7.4 – 7.6 refer)

Improvements

It is disappointing to note that issues highlighted in last year's report have not been successfully addressed. Lack of staffing is still an issue, as is the problem with psychoactive substances. In addition, there has been very little investment in the infrastructure.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.1 HMP Wealstun is a category C adult training and resettlement prison for men, situated in a semi-rural area near Wetherby in West Yorkshire. It has a Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) of 810 and an Operational Capacity (OC) of 833.

3.2 On 1 April 1995, HM Prisons Thorp Arch and Rudgate amalgamated to form HMP Wealstun. This created a category C (closed) side and category D (open) side within one establishment. In 2008, the open prison closed and the prison underwent a conversion to an entirely category C prison, which was fully operational in May 2010. Since May 2015, it has served a resettlement function for the West Yorkshire area.

3.3 There are 10 residential units and a segregation unit. A and B wings are the original 1960 remand centre buildings; A wing includes self-isolators; C wing is a pre-fabricated single-cell accommodation unit and is the First Night and induction wing; D wing accommodates the majority of prisoners on the integrated drug treatment system programme; E, F, G, H, I and J wings were converted from open category D accommodation to closed category C accommodation; G wing is the drug recovery wing; I wing holds some of the older population, alongside some category D prisoners; and H wing is mainly for prison kitchen workers.

3.4 The site also comprises a kitchen, visitors' centre, chaplaincy, gym, library, healthcare centre and a number of workshops. A reception area for prisoners' visitors is located outside the main gate.

3.5 The prison is part of the public sector, and although HM Prison and Probation Service is responsible for the operation of the establishment, the main service providers are:

- NOVUS (previously called City of Manchester College), for Learning and Skills.
- CAREUK, for the provision of healthcare/mental health.
- GeoAMEY, for escort provision.
- AMEY, for provision of facilities management and site maintenance.
- St Giles Trust, for resettlement services.

4 SAFETY

4.1 The prisoner population at HMP Wealstun contains a high proportion of vulnerable individuals, many of whom have experienced negative life events, including drug and alcohol abuse, mental health problems, family background and relationship problems, social disadvantage or isolation and previous sexual or physical abuse. These problems are exacerbated by the use of psychoactive substances (PS). There are currently 10 listeners, and the Samaritans attend the prison on a regular basis. The Governor and her team work proactively to ensure that the prison population is balanced ethnically and culturally across the wings to ensure that no single element of the prison population dominates a wing.

4.2 PS continues to be a major problem in the prison, increasing the level of violence on the wings and resulting in the hospitalisation of prisoners and officers. Much of the PS comes over the wall; this is a difficult problem to resolve owing to the length of the perimeter. However, funding has been obtained to increase CCTV coverage and provide additional netting. Where there is suspicion that incoming letters have been soaked in drugs, they are photocopied; this has resulted in an increase in complaints from prisoners, as bogus Legal Mail is a significant problem and Legal Mail should not be opened. Prisoners found guilty at adjudications of taking drugs are offered drugs courses.

4.3 Safer Prison meetings are held monthly and the Board has been represented occasionally. All Safer Prison reports are reviewed weekly by a Governor grade manager. The majority of Safer Prisons reports relate to prisoners in conflict with other prisoners within the prison; on investigation, much of this conflict stems from debts created whilst in custody.

4.4 The level of violence is closely monitored. There has been a considerable increase in assaults on prisoners and staff over the year compared to the last reporting year, which the Board feels is caused by the increase in drug use and the frustration prisoners feel when regimes are curtailed due to lack of staff. The main reasons for assaults are arguments, issues with staff, retaliation and debt.

4.5 The management manage sick leave closely but there are regular occasions when there is insufficient staff to maintain the regime; as well as sick leave, unplanned escorts to outside hospitals (sometimes as a result of violence) and the need to provide constant watch have a major impact. The Board is extremely concerned about staffing levels and will monitor the situation. The prison has recruited a number of new officers but the impact of this will take time to be felt as new staff bed in.

4.6 The Command Suite has seldom been opened this reporting year. However, the Board has not always been notified timeously and this has been raised as unacceptable. The prison has tightened its procedures.

4.7 At times during the year, the SEG was full and there was little capacity to take new prisoners. Many SEG prisoners were unwilling to return to their normal location due to, amongst other things, fears for their own safety; they were self-isolating. The prison set up a number of cells in A wing to provide the self-isolators with a better regime, including the opportunity to undertake education or employment. The Board is supportive of this initiative as it has been introduced in other establishments. However, there have been initial problems and the Board observed that this was not working as expected as no additional staffing could be allocated, reviews did not take place and the number of prisoners on open assessment care in custody teamwork (ACCTs) was excessive at times. Lack of staffing has also resulted in the regime being significantly reduced. The Board raised these issues with management and plans are now in place for improvements to be made early in the new reporting year. The Board will continue to monitor closely.

4.8 The number of prisoners on open ACCT files has fluctuated throughout the year but has been very high at times, with 45 being opened in one month (October 2016). Considerable work has been done to try to reduce the number, with better management in place, but it still remains high as there are insufficient resources available to manage the situation. The high number at times in the SEG and A Wing was a major concern for both the Board and the prison, with a significant impact on staffing as frequent reviews were required. ACCT reviews in the SEG are now done by Governor grade, resulting in better management of the risks, especially for vulnerable

prisoners. Board members continue to thoroughly check open ACCTs on the wings and in the SEG every week and, where possible, attend the reviews. A better process for communicating the time of ACCT reviews is being put in place, which it is hoped will allow Board members to attend more frequently. The recording and monitoring of ACCTs by staff is still a major cause for concern and is being closely monitored.

4.9 There were no Deaths in Custody during the reporting period.

4.10 The reception processes work well, with a proactive prisoner acting as an 'Insider' to help the new prisoners. However, there have been a number of instances where prisoners in reception have secreted items which should have been found at their previous establishment. In addition, the required Cell Risk Assessments had not been carried out by their previous establishments as per the process; this has meant that staff have had to be trained to undertake the assessments.

4.11 During the year, the First Night and Induction wing was moved from A wing to C wing, which is considerably better. The accommodation is better and there is more space for induction to take place. The atmosphere has improved. At the request of the Board, the prison's induction booklet has been updated to include a section on the role of the IMB.

4.12 The Board is pleased to note that a team has been set up to carry out assurance checks which will hopefully see an improvement in the level of decency with which prisoners are treated.

5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

- 5.1 In a typical month over the reporting period, the ethnic background of the prisoner population was: White 75%; Asian 16%; Black 3.5%; Mixed 5% and 'Other' 0.5%. There are regular (quarterly) meetings of the Diversity Equality Action Team (DEAT), which has prisoner representation (for part of the meeting) and an external representative from a local university. Each wing has a prisoner 'Diversity Representative' who meet on alternate months. There is a full-time prisoner Diversity Representative based in the Multi-Faith Centre.
- 5.2 Amongst other things, the DEAT meetings monitor the pattern and progression of Discrimination Incident Report Forms (DIRF). DIRF cases averaged just under three per month and all were thoroughly investigated in a timely and transparent manner.
- 5.3 The overwhelming majority of cases related to either religion/belief or race. The low level of IMB Applications relating to race or religion (zero over the reporting period) indicates that relationships in the prison in these areas are good. The evidence for such good relationships is supported by informal conversations between IMB members and prisoners. The prison policy, which seeks to match the demographic characteristics of each wing with those of the prison overall, is not always achieved because of other constraints (e.g. one wing near the kitchen houses prisoners who work in the kitchen, whilst another wing houses drug rehabilitation prisoners).
- 5.4 The kitchen is proactive and successful in seeking to cater for religion-based diets and festivals. Prisoners express satisfaction with the way the kitchen meets daily halal and other religious dietary requirements. Special food is prepared for major religious festivals such as Christmas, Easter, the Ramadan month and the festival of Eid. Caribbean meals were prepared during Black History Week and, as part of special 'taster theme nights', prisoners from the Traveller Community were involved in producing related food items.
- 5.5 Approximately 20% of the prison population identify themselves as having some form of disability. The majority of these relate to either mental illness or learning difficulties. At any one time only a very small number have significant mobility problems. One of the newer wings has disabled bathroom provision. Over the reporting year only one Application to the IMB related to physical disability (wheelchair access) which was promptly addressed by the prison staff.
- 5.6 Significant staffing changes in the Diversity Equality Action Team (DEAT) were reported in the last IMB Annual Report. Staffing changes, temporary replacements and instability have recurred over this reporting period. The lack of activity in special support groups (such as the Gay Forum) may be a consequence of this. However, a permanent member of staff is now in place and it is hoped that this will result in more stability.
- 5.7 The Chaplaincy Team consists of a full time Anglican chaplain with part time chaplains in the following areas: Roman Catholic (1 x 30 hours plus 1 sessional); Free Church (1 sessional plus a volunteer); Sikh (1 sessional); Muslim (2 x 18 hours plus 1 x 4 hours) and Buddhist (1 sessional). Other chaplains are available on request for Judaism, Jehovah's Witness and Pagan. Awaiting appointment are Quaker and Mormon chaplains (on a request basis.) The team is supported by a volunteer Chaplaincy Assistant.
- 5.8 Members of the Chaplaincy Team are fully involved in such activities as: ACCT Reviews, SEG Reviews, visiting prisoners in the SEG, DEAT meetings and the induction of prisoners. Regular religious services are provided at the weekend and prayer and study group sessions are available during the week. Chaplains carry a heavy and demanding pastoral load on a daily basis, supporting prisoners in personal and family problems. In terms of management, the Chaplaincy Team is flat: there is no Managing Chaplain. The efficiency of the team may well suffer from this lack of oversight and direction.
- 5.9 Physically, the Chaplaincy is sited in two separate areas of the prison. On the south side of the prison is a large well-furnished multi-faith chapel with a chaplains' office attached. On the north side of the prison is the multi-faith centre with a large meeting room, smaller meeting rooms and some individual chaplain's offices. The split-site and multi-office nature of the Chaplaincy Team accommodation detracts from the efficient working of the team.

5.10 The complaints procedures are well understood by the prisoners and are well controlled. The complaints clerk has an excellent management system in place, which the Board has seen on numerous occasions. She ensures that replies are complete, well written and timeous.

5.11 The Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) system seems to work well, with reviews held on time and checks on prisoners being undertaken. The prison undertook a review of the IEP system early in 2017; the recommended changes were not implemented at the time as the MoJ are producing revised guidance later in 2017. The Board will monitor the situation.

6 SEGREGATION

6.1 The Segregation Unit (SEG) is a purpose-built building with cells for 14 prisoners and short term holding cells for prisoners awaiting adjudication. Prisoners are removed from the mainstream prison either for their own safety, having received threats from other prisoners, or because they need to be kept separate from the main population due to their behaviour or risk level. In addition, cellular confinement is given as a punishment for infringements of the Prison Discipline rules.

6.2 The POOTY award for the staff in the SEG in 2016 was welcome but it was disappointing that changes to the senior management of the SEG early in the IMB reporting year, in the view of the Board, had a negative effect on the unit. In addition to maintaining the regime for those prisoners in the SEG, 3 of the 4 staff on the morning shift were involved in Adjudications. Given the significant number of Adjudications each day, and the high number of prisoners on open ACCTs, the staff were very stretched and, at times, unable to facilitate IMB visits to the SEG. Other issues raised by the Board included the lack of regular Segregation Monitoring and Review Group (SMARG) meetings throughout the year and the state of the accommodation, with some cells being unfit for human habitation, particularly during the winter months.

6.3 A significant number of prisoners in the SEG – at times, a third - had an open ACCT. The Board is satisfied that removal of a prisoner with an open ACCT to the SEG is not inappropriate; however, the Board is concerned about the high number of ACCTs and the pressure this puts on the limited staffing and on the regime for the other prisoners in the SEG.

6.4 The Board is notified daily of removals to the SEG. Prisoners are seen weekly by the Board member on rota and can ask to speak privately if necessary. The prison reviews continuing stays in the SEG as required. SEG Review Board meetings are generally held at the same time each week and an IMB member regularly attends. The correct procedures are being followed. The reviews are well run, with prisoners being allowed to contribute fully. There were, however, occasions when the time of the Review meeting was changed and the Board was not notified, which is unacceptable and has been addressed.

6.5 The regime in the unit is reasonable, considering the staffing problems, with daily exercise (up to 2 hours a day), phone calls and showers (on request). The unit has two exercise yards and prisoners exercise in groups, if appropriate. Prisoners have access to radios, books and education and can also access listeners and Samaritans if required. However, the regime could be improved further to allow access to other in-cell activities. The SEG building is in a poor state of repair/decoration. New showers and privacy screens have been provided this year. Funding has also now been approved to upgrade the unit and to provide in-cell electricity and this work is planned for the near future.

6.6 The number of Adjudications has increased significantly over the year, probably due to the increase in violence and drug usage and the shortage of staff, with often 20 to be heard each day. The prison has plans in place to computerise the Adjudication process but this is taking a long time to arrange. Computerisation will help staff manage the process.

6.7 The Board has noted a change of management at the SEG late in the reporting year, and plans for improvements. Some of these are already materialising: for example, more stable staffing has seen an improvement in staff/prisoner relationships, with staff knowing the prisoners and treating them with respect, compassion and professionalism. In addition, the length of time prisoners remain in the SEG has reduced through closer management. The Board will, however, continue to monitor closely.

7 ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNICATION

7.1 This year has seen an obvious deterioration in the state of the accommodation. Both A and B wings failed a Crown Premises Fire Investigation Group (CPFIG) investigation, although the prison's quick reaction led to the notice being withdrawn at the next inspection. A decision was taken that prisoners who are potential arsonists cannot be housed in the building until it receives major improvements. However, this is not a solution to the fundamental problem: the wings are old and are not currently fit for purpose; the Board is extremely concerned that without significant capital funding the situation will not improve. The prison has estimated that £4.5m is required to improve the building. The Board feels that a total rebuild of those wings and the SEG would be more cost effective.

7.2 The SEG building is in a poor state of repair/decoration. There are cells which are unfit for human habitation, especially in the winter, through major problems with damp. Funding has now been obtained for in-cell electricity and the work is expected to take place this year. It has taken a year for the funding to be approved and the Board is concerned that the delay may have resulted in further deterioration of the fabric of the building.

7.3 Another extensive work item which remains outstanding is the kitchen floor, which is a major health and safety issue. Funding has apparently been allocated but progress is extremely slow on getting plans in place for the work to be undertaken.

7.4 Smaller work items with funding and day to day maintenance are also of concern to the Board. Some of the work that Amey carries out or subcontracts out is extremely poor quality. For example, although showers are being replaced on some wings, their installation is sub-standard and obviously done as cheaply as possible. The new shower in the SEG is an obvious example.

7.5 Day to day maintenance is also poor; considerable delays in getting things done mean cells are having to be used when they are obviously uninhabitable, for example because the toilet is broken.

7.6 The Board is therefore very concerned about the fabric of the accommodation, the performance of AMEY and the quality of some of the work, and continues to raise issues with the prison.

7.7 A real asset to the prison is its kitchen, which is well led and managed and provides excellent job opportunities for prisoners, who enjoy working there. Unlike at some prisons, the Board receives very few complaints about the food. Diversity matters, such as Ramadan, are handled well and sensitively.

7.8 Prisoners' property is generally well managed within the prison. However, the Board receives a number of applications concerning property not being received from previous prisons, and responses to prisoners' complaints from those establishments are often late. The Board will continue to monitor the situation.

7.9 The Board has observed good communication and respect between prisoners and officers on a number of occasions. The prison is also intending to introduce Enablers in the prison in the near future.

8 HEALTHCARE (including mental health and social care)

8.1 Care UK took over the contract for healthcare services from an NHS provider on 1 April 2016 and have, therefore, delivered the service for the full IMB reporting year. This includes primary health, mental health, substance misuse, clinical and psycho-social services. Dental, physiotherapy and optical services are sub-contracted through Global Diagnostics, along with a new service of x-ray and ultrasound. Staff generally work 12 hour shifts, 7am to 7pm, and GP services are provided by a practice in nearby Wetherby, including on-call for out-of-hours and weekends. Requests for appointments through healthcare applications are assessed through nurse triage on the same day they are received, and waiting times are equivalent to those in the community. Medicines are dispensed three times daily by pharmacy technicians and nursing staff.

8.2 Tele-health was due to be introduced in August 2016 but was delayed due to security and IT issues. The new launch date is August 2017. When tele-health is operational it will reduce the need for journeys to some medical appointments. There is also the potential to use tele-health for cross-health, e.g. consultations with GPs who are on call and patient meetings via video link. The dental waiting list was an area for concern in the previous report. However, funding was secured through NHS England which enabled additional dental appointments and triage clinics to run for a period of 3-4 months to clear the backlog. The waiting times are now down to normal levels of about 6 weeks.

8.3 Healthcare representatives are seen as very important within the service and need to be embedded in the prison. Failure to attend appointments does increase noticeably without the presence of healthcare reps. A dedicated data analyst has been appointed who provides data on all aspects of the service. Non-attendance is monitored monthly and swift action taken where appropriate. The analyst also provides data required by the NHS and if areas for concern are highlighted there is the ability to act quickly. A member of Care UK leads on healthcare reps for both HMP Leeds and HMP Wealstun. An ex-prisoner who was a healthcare rep at HMP Wealstun is employed to give talks to prisoners to prepare them for release; he now runs a successful company employing only ex-prisoners. An accredited course for healthcare reps is being considered, which would include health education and health support. This would also assist in improving health promotion within HMP Wealstun.

8.4 A Health Needs Analysis was undertaken by NHS England. The outcome was positive but they recommended that the sexual health service clinics should be an "opt out" service. Currently prisoners are offered various screening services which are not always taken up, but one recommendation is for screening to be provided unless specifically declined. An action tracker on the recommendations of the Health Needs Analysis is being set up by the Service Manager.

8.5 Psychoactive Substances (PS) continue to be a major issue for healthcare within HMP Wealstun. There are 8-10 calls per day but staff are becoming more adept at dealing with these calls. Staff are well trained on PS drugs, often spending more time with the patient which can have a knock-on effect of some clinics being canceled. However, this reduces the need to call an ambulance. Where clinics are affected, staff will often go onto the wings to see prisoners who have had their appointments canceled or delayed.

8.6 Bank and agency staff continue to be used to cover staff vacancies and gaps. There is a small pool of dedicated staff who are used for this purpose and have been employed for a number of years. Skill mix is also being looked at within the service, e.g. paramedics as healthcare professionals are now encouraged to apply for vacancies.

8.7 As part of reducing reoffending, a new scheme called Socrates is offered to prisoners who are due for release. It takes the form of an App on a smartphone or computer. If prisoners agree that this would be useful for them, personal information is downloaded, e.g. medical appointments, medication, prescriptions and medical history. St Giles is also involved and provides information on housing appointments and benefits. Socrates was trialed at HMP Pentonville and is now being rolled out across other prisons. Healthcare reps will promote this opt-in service. The Board are satisfied that this service is working well, with the biggest challenge being competing priorities. There are no major concerns in this area and the staff strive for continuous improvement. The relationship between the prison and the provider is extremely positive.

9 EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

9.1 NOVUS (previously the City of Manchester College) are the service providers for this area of the prison regime. During this reporting period, the management of the team underwent some changes and it is hoped that a period of stability is now in place. As with recruitment in other areas of the prison, recruitment and retention of educators is an issue and does on occasions impact on the continuity of the service provided.

9.2 Education is an important element in offering prisoners the opportunity to obtain the qualifications that could enable them to find employment on their release. The curriculum offered is closely monitored and adjusted to suit the needs of the prison population. A recent review has identified three new courses which will be offered shortly: NVQ in Production Manufacturing Operations, Horticulture and Bakery.

9.3 Well established courses which have proved popular and successful in the past and which remain on the curriculum are: Functional Skills English and Maths, from Entry to Level 2; ITQ, Entry to Level 3; Creative i-Media; Business Enterprise; Employability Level 1, Information, Advice and Guidance; NVQ in Professional Cookery; Plastering; Interior Fittings; Tiling; Multi-skills; Painting and Decorating; and Industrial Cleaning. Additionally, support for students studying with the Open University is provided.

9.4 The academic year 2016/17 is coming to a close and overall success rates are forecast to be at 95%. All qualifications are at Level 2 unless stated otherwise above.

9.5 HMP Wealstun was the first prison in the region to welcome the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) testing bus. A mobile unit attended the prison in order for prisoners in the relevant workshops to take part and gain a skilled worker CSCS card, which is mandatory for all workers in the construction industry. This qualification is a government health and safety initiative.

9.6 In order to further promote literacy and numeracy outside the NOVUS classrooms, an initiative is in place to offer outreach sessions in English and Mathematics to learners employed in prison industries and NOVUS workshops.

9.7 Prisoners are able to access the various libraries around the prison at least once a week, with a good supply of books and breadth of subjects being made available. During the reporting year a shortage of prison staff led to prisoners on some wings being unable to visit the library; however, this has now been resolved.

9.8 The prison has two well equipped gyms to which prisoners have regular access. Unfortunately, a shortage of staff in other areas of the prison has led to sessions being cancelled or the gym being closed.

9.9 During routine rota visits to these areas of the prison the Board notes that much good work is being undertaken and the interaction between learner and tutor is positive and fruitful.

9.10 The Board is disappointed that due to staff shortages within the prison there are regular lock-ups, resulting in regimes being regularly curtailed and prisoners remaining in their cells. This is unacceptable owing to the impact on prisoners and the frustration they feel, and the resulting effect on prisoner behaviour.

10 WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT

10.1 The prison offers work in the following areas: Contract Services, assembling small kits through TATRA for BT; Tailors, making clothing items for internal prison industry; Contract Services, assembling car components for Nissan (this work is also able to be undertaken by self-excluding prisoners in their cells); Gardens Party, maintaining prison gardens etc; Logistics, transporting deliveries around the site; Sewing Machine Repairs, maintaining machines from Wealstun and other establishments; Furniture Restoration, restoring items donated to a local children's hospice for sale by them; Laundry, including items from other prison establishments; Tiling; Plastering; Beverage Packing, assembling prisoners' breakfast packs; Farms and Gardens, supplying vegetables for the kitchen, with any surplus being sold at a Pop Up Shop at the prison gate; and the Kitchen itself, which as well as providing meals for the prisoners, supplies bread, pies and cakes to be sold to staff and passing neighbours.

10.2 It is extremely unfortunate that two workshops which had been successful and led to recognised qualifications, Crystal Clean and Waste Management,, closed during the past year owing to lack of staff. In addition, the prison withdrew from the contract with Ambertrain, which delivered training for laying train tracks, as there were no formal qualifications and no job offers on release.

10.3 It is disappointing that the need for the prison to reach the 80% target for CU095A Hours Worked in Industry Activities diverts their efforts from, and limits their ability to introduce, more meaningful employments which would enhance prisoners' abilities to obtain work on their release. A full curriculum review has been undertaken and the funding for Ambertrain will be reinvested into the planned Catering Academy, which is due to open this year in partnership with Qhotel. As well as delivering NVQ level 2, prisoners are guaranteed an interview on release.

10.4 The Board noted that on visits to the workshops the level of instruction being offered was good and so too was the relationship between trainers and prisoners

10.5 The Board still notes that on occasions there are significant numbers of prisoners on the wings during work time because of competing priorities in the regime. Again, one factor for this is the lack of staff, either through recruitment issues or sickness.

11 RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

11.1 The challenges currently faced by the Offender Management Unit (OMU) are very much the same as noted in the report last year. There is still a consistent flow of prisoners arriving at the establishment from HMP Leeds who have not had an OASys (offender assessment system) completed upon departure, meaning the OMU has to complete them upon arrival if resources are available. The OMU's resource challenge has only worsened over the past 12 months: Band 4 officers are no longer available to the unit and, until recently, OMU wing applications were responded to by an officer on restricted duties; this officer is now operational, further depleting resources. This makes it even less likely that an Offender Supervisor will meet with prisoners and the Board still receives feedback from prisoners that they are unable to meet with anyone from the OMU.

11.2 The OMU staff continue to do the best they can in the circumstances. The Board looks forward to the Band 4 review, which will increase Band 4 staffing on the Residential Units and in OMU (although the Board is informed that no additional funding is available for this), and welcomes the senior management team addressing the challenges in this unit, which have been neglected over the past 12 months.

11.3 The Board has conducted a survey of the service provided by St Giles Trust, the main charity providing resettlement support for prisoners. They assist prisoners with resettlement plans and help them access services such as health, substance misuse, employment, education, training, housing, finance, benefits and debts. Surveys were completed with prisoners who were approaching release to identify how much contact they had with St Giles Trust and how much support they had with their release.

11.4 The majority of prisoners had contact with St Giles prior to release, however only one prisoner had contact with the OMU. If any of the prisoners needed assistance with employment or accommodation St Giles was able to provide this; however the majority of those surveyed did not require it as they had made other arrangements with friends or family.

11.5 Furthermore, as a step towards improving the resettlement support given to prisoners, and overcoming resource challenges, there is now a monthly "Resettlement Hub" where prisoners are invited to address any outstanding resettlement needs by meeting with accommodation providers, financial institutions, agencies who help with employment, Job Centre Plus, OMU, Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Service (DARS) and Through The Gate mentors.

11.6 The prison was planning to set up a Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) unit on A Wing but this has been delayed. However, the Board is supportive of this initiative and is encouraging its introduction later this year.

11.7 In summary, there remain significant challenges within the OMU, however St Giles Trust continues to provide valuable support to prisoners and the introduction of the "Resettlement Hub" is a positive step. The Board looks forward to the outcome of the Band 4 review.

12 WORK OF THE BOARD

The Board currently comprises 8 members. Despite the small number of members, all core duties were performed: weekly rota visits, applications and monthly Board meetings. A recent recruitment campaign has resulted in 4 new members being recruited but appointed has been delayed due to the General Election.

Weekly rota visits continue to take place, following a system which reflects the scale and variety of the areas visited and the need to record members' findings effectively and objectively. All prisoners in the SEG are spoken to and prisoner applications are answered, speaking to the prisoners themselves where possible. In addition, open ACCT documents on the wings visited are checked for completeness and accuracy to ensure that the process is being followed, and ACCT reviews are attended. Such activities brought members of the Board into direct contact with both prisoners and staff.

A Board meeting is held each month, which the No. 1 Governor or a member of the Senior Management Team attends, and serious concerns that were identified during visits are raised.

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8
Total number of visits to the establishment	203
Total number of segregation reviews attended	64

Code	Subject	Current reporting year	Previous reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	0	1
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	3	1
C	Equality	3	0
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	8	23
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	9	10
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	6	12
F	Food and kitchens	0	0
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	10	11
H 1	Property within this establishment	17	15
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	20	2
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	2	1
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	12	19
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	15	5
K	Transfers	3	6
	Total number of IMB applications	108	117